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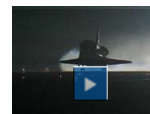


The Obama administration has developed a five-year blueprint for rescuing the Great Lakes.

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EPA plans to spend \$2.2B to protect Great Lakes

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By Brad Heath, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The federal government plans to spend \$2.2 billion to clean up pollution in the Great Lakes and halt the spread of invasive species over the next five years.

That plan, announced Sunday, marks a "significant investment" in fighting some of the biggest environmental threats to the nation's largest freshwater lakes, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson said. The EPA will use the money to prevent beach pollution, clean up toxic hot spots, and fight Asian carp and other invasive species. That effort "will leave the Great Lakes better for the next generation than the condition in which we inherited them," Jackson said.

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The Great Lakes — spanning from Minnesota to New York— have faced environmental threats for decades, ranging from a legacy of industrial pollution to disappearing wetlands and invasive species that threaten local fish populations. State and federal agencies have attempted in the past to fix some of those problems, though most of the efforts have been modest.

"We're on track today to do something the Great Lakes have been crying out for for years, and that's comprehensive restoration," said Joel Brammeier, president of the Alliance for the Great Lakes.

Among the EPA's priorities is cleaning up long-polluted sections of the lakes. In the 1980s, the U.S. and Canadian governments identified 31 toxic hot spots on the U.S. side; since then, only one has been fully cleaned up. The EPA now plans to finish work at four others by 2014, though spokesman Brendan Gilfillan said the agency hasn't figured out which.

The plan also takes a "zero tolerance" approach to invasive species such as Asian carp, which could crowd out native fish and imperil the Great Lakes fishing industry if they reach Lake Michigan.

Congress has approved \$475 million for the Great Lakes cleanup plan, though Jackson said little of the money has been spent. President Obama asked Congress for \$300 million more this year, and Jackson said he will seek even more in the years ahead. The EPA's plan announced Sunday will determine how the money is spent.

Jackson announced the plan at a meeting of the nation's governors. Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle, a Democrat, called

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the cleanup "extraordinarily important." Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, a Democrat, said it will "leave these bodies of water improved and protected."

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bigfinger (42 friends, send message) wrote: 5m ago

OB-1 (84 friends, send message) wrote: 14m ago

Alot less costly option would be to close the Chicago canal. Yes that would disrupt some of Chicago ship transit but the Great Lakes would be better served and any shipments that could not go between the Mississippi and the Great Lakes could then be transport ed overland by truck.

So you want to ignore the rest of the problems? The asian carp is only part of the problem.

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racoldboy (0 friends, send message) wrote: 5m ago

Dah, Carp cat food, 2.4 billion come on. Wait until the hot days of summer, throw some bread crumbs in the water and have a big ass net ready, because they will come. No fine, no license required catch all you want.

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TechPhil (0 friends, send message) wrote: 6m ago

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OB-1 (84 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 22m ago

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CCsezSHOOT (83 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 22m ago

They better stop the Asain Carp advance right now...tomorrow is too late.

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bigfinger (42 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 33m ago

pvcoffm (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 43m ago

capnblood (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 2h 19m ago

someone is going to be clever enough to figure a way to make a buck out of this, If we netted the carp and processed them for fish sticks, fish meal, fish oil cat food and fertilizer, we could have no carp very shortly. Are you the lucky entrepreneur who's going to make his fortune with this? or are you content to pass the buck, cast the blame and simply p@@s and moan?

=====

I like your idea. When are you going tp get started?

=====

The asian carp is but one problem that the lakes face. To net all the carp means you have to do the Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio and all the rivers that drain into these three rivers. You figure out how to do such a thing without destroying all the other species of fish and wildlife, you might get a license to do so.

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Facelessdrone (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 36m ago

Gotta love the morons on here who take a simple ecological cleanup and turn it into an anti-Obama rant. You think it's a bad idea to clean up the lakes, I guess that makes you smarter than all the experts at EPA. What do they know, they're only scientists who have actually studied the problem, they don't hold a candle to conservative "experts" whose knowledge comes from Rush Limbaugh. Yeah, they wasted \$5B at Ground Zero and whose administration was that? NOT Obama! OK, so Obama wants to spend \$2.2B on it. That was about 2 months of the Iraq war! Were you complaining when the Bushies spent billions and billions building schools, highways, power plants, etc. in IRAQ?? ? That was OK for you but cleaning up AMERICA isn't??? What a bunch of arrogant, unpatriotic fools.

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sububan3rdworld (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 37m ago

regularman (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 19h 47m ago

If the whole US is going to be paying for this, then they should allow and instal some routes to feed fresh water to other regions in time of drought. The states surrounding the lakes don't want to allow this and they don't deserve a dime until they have the interest of us all in mind.

Yeah, after all of those along the Cheasapeake and Everglades hand over their water first. We've funded those areas for 20Years+, Oh, we should own the New World Trade Center too, that already costed us \$6 Billion without a shovel in the ground. COME ON MAN, THIS IS 1/4 OF THE WORLD'S USABLE FRESH WATER. IT NEEDS TO STAY WHERE IT IS. YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE AREA TO REAP THE BENEFITS, JUST LIKE THE NATIONAL PARKS.

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fire.camp (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 37m ago

I rest easy knowing the obama administration has a plan.....

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